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LOTHINGLAND RURAL DISTRICT

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COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

1957.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
RECTORY ROAD,
LOWESTOFT,
SUFFOLK.

LOTHINGLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

1957.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH A.C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
PUBLIC CLEANSING OFFICER
AND PETROLEUM OFFICER R. GROAT, M.P.H.I.A.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR & PETROLEUM
OFFICER G.A. BOANAS, M.P.H.I.A.

Council Offices,
Rectory Road,
Lowestoft.
Suffolk.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1957.

The general statistics of the district follow the pattern of previous years and need little comment. The number of births and deaths falls within the average for the past few years, but it is of interest to notice that the population of the district is rising slowly, there having been a steady increase to over four hundred persons above the figure of five years ago. This indicates quite clearly, the extent to which the district is becoming "urbanised" at its boundaries with Lowestoft and Yarmouth.

There is little of significance to report regarding causes of death. Only four cases of cancer of the lung were recorded, compared with three the previous year. The group of deaths caused by diseases of the heart and circulatory system continues to be the main cause of death.

Apart from measles, the year was comparatively free from infectious disease. It was a bad year for measles, some 315 cases being notified. This was, however, in keeping with the trend elsewhere.

Attendances at all the welfare centres continued at a good level, most centres in fact showing an increase in attendance over previous years.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that the number of well water cyanosis tests shows a 50% drop this year. The administrative scheme relating to this problem has always been a difficult one to administer and the necessity for such tests indicates poor water supply facilities. The extension of water mains continues at a steady rate and the fall in the number of these tests is a good indication of the progress which is being made in this direction. The provision of a mains

water supply without a corresponding sewage disposal scheme leads to many sanitary problems such as overflowing cesspools and heavier demands on the cesspool emptying service and it is with satisfaction therefore, that we can report the commencement and in some cases the completion of sewage works in parts of the district. The Council can feel justly proud of the progress which has been made in this matter during the past five years.

One matter which will need careful attention in the immediate future is that of the residential caravan. These are increasing in number due to a variety of reasons. If proper facilities are provided and this type of development is strictly controlled, excellent living accommodation can be provided, but it is the type of accommodation which if not properly supervised can become very substandard indeed.

Once again, may I take this opportunity of thanking you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee for your support during the year.

I am, your obedient servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44,653 acre
Registrar-General's estimated population (mid 1957)								15,460
Number of inhabited houses as at 31st December, 1957								5,512
Rateable value as at 31st December, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£26,812

VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
<u>Live Births:</u>				
Legitimate	111	78	189	
Illegitimate	4	4	8	
	<u>115</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>197</u>	
				<u>Comparative figure for England & Wales</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population		12.7 (Crude)		
		14.3 (Adjusted)		16.1
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
<u>Stillbirths:</u>				
Legitimate	1	2	3	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	
				<u>Comparative figure for England & Wales</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population		11.8 (Crude)		
		10.6 (Adjusted)		11.5
<u>Deaths of Infants</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
<u>under 1 year of age</u>				
Legitimate	7	1	8	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	
<u>Deaths of Infants</u>				
<u>under 4 weeks of age</u>				
Legitimate	4	1	5	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	

Comparative table for the past five years.

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Population	15,040	15,190	15,240	15,350	15,460
Births	194	227	198	222	197
Birth rate per 1000	12.9	14.9	14.5	16.3	14.3
Deaths	149	175	147	186	183
Death rate per 1000	9.9	11.5	7.9	11.6	10.6
Infant Deaths	4	3	6	4	8

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung	4	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
Other malignant neoplasms	15	22	37
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	2	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	12	19
Coronary disease, angina	21	12	33
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	7	9	16
Other circulatory disease	9	5	14
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	4	-	4
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Ulcer stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	3	-	3
Other defined and ill defined diseases	6	7	13
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	1	3	4
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	98	85	183
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Motor vehicle accidents:

A boy, aged 10 of Reydon.

Cause: Crush injury of the head when he fell from his bicycle underneath the rear near side wheel of an overtaking lorry.

A girl, aged 7 years of Somerleyton.

Cause: Fracture of base of skull caused by her having been knocked down by a motor cycle.

Other accidents:

A male, aged 53 years of Belton.

Cause: Drowning when ship deceased was serving in was sunk at sea due to collision.

A female, aged 83 years of Wangford.

Cause: Hypostatic pneumonia following a fall from which the deceased sustained injuries to the right arm and right thigh.

A female, aged 81 years of Reydon.

Cause: Bronchial pneumonia following a recumbency in bed and associated with arteriosclerosis and cerebral anaemia. Death was due to accident - slipped on a mat.

A female, aged 80 years of Kessingland.

Cause: Exhaustion - Concussion and fracture caused by her having been knocked down by a cyclist.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the incidence of Infectious Diseases throughout the year, in the various parishes:

P A R I S H	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Encephalitis	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Puerperal Pyrexia	Infective Hepatitis	Poliomyelitis
	18	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Barnby											
Belton											
Benacre											
Blundeston											
Bradwell											
Browston											
Carlton Colville											
Corton											
Flixton											
Fritton											
Gisleham											
Henham											
Herringfleet											
Hopton											
Hulver											
Kessingland											
Lound											
Mutford											
Oulton											
Reydon											
Rushmere											
Somerleyton											
St. Olaves											
Wrentham											
1957	315	19	1	17	1	-	1	-	-	1	1
1956	8	5	22	15	-	2	2	2	1	1	-
1955	111	62	3	6	-	1	-	3	2	-	-

Measles notified during the year, classified according to month of occurrence

MEASLES.

January	6
February	-
March	1
April	15
May	20
June	85
July	131
August	31
September	-
October	1
November	9
December	17

Total: 315
6.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

The following shows the number of attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres throughout the year:

<u>Welfare Centres.</u>	<u>First Attendances.</u>	<u>Subsequent Attendances.</u>	<u>Total Attendances.</u>
<u>Carlton Colville.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	37	237	274
1 - 5 Years	38	278	316
<u>Kessingland.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	41	181	222
1 - 5 Years	34	163	197
<u>Wrentham.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	26	143	169
1 - 5 Years	23	152	175
<u>Corton.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	14	38	52
1 - 5 Years	17	127	144
<u>Alpington.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	19	55	74
1 - 5 Years	21	168	189
<u>Belton.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	11	22	33
1 - 5 Years	10	73	83
<u>Bradwell.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	20	69	89
1 - 5 Years	19	62	81
<u>Hopton.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	14	60	74
1 - 5 Years	9	100	109
<u>Lound.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	6	16	22
1 - 5 Years	13	87	100
<u>Somerleyton.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	21	33	54
1 - 5 Years	18	67	85
<u>Reydon.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	21	159	180
1 - 5 Years	10	80	90

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

In the Lothingland district in 1957, 169 primary immunisations were carried out by the child welfare clinics and general practitioners. The age groups of the children immunised are as follows:-

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>1 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>Total</u>
138	21	10	169

Also 153 booster doses were given to children between the ages of 5 - 14 years.

<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>	<u>MALES</u>		<u>FEMALES</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pul</u>	
Number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1956	37	11	23	10	61
Number of cases added during the year	4	-	5	1	10
Number of cases removed during the year	2	1	-	1	3
Number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1957	39	10	28	10	67
<u>Cases Added to the Register</u>			<u>Cases Removed from the Register</u>		
New notifications	= 5		Recovered	= 1	
Inward transfers	= 5		Died	= 1	
	-		Removed to other areas	= 2	
<u>Total</u>	<u>10</u>			<u>4</u>	
	<u>—</u>			<u>—</u>	

Cases on the Register, according to age and sex at 31st December, 1957.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 5 years	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	2	5	7
15 - 24 years	12	6	18
25 - 44 years	15	17	32
45 - 64 years	13	8	21
65 years and over	7	1	8
Age unknown	-	1	1
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>49</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>87</u>
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

HOME HELP SERVICE.

A total of 656 hours was worked by Home Helps in Lothingland. This time was allocated amongst a total of 54 cases as follows:-

<u>Maternity Cases.</u>	<u>T.B. & Sick.</u>	<u>Old People.</u>
8	13	33

It will be noticed that by far the greatest help was provided for old people. This service is much handicapped in the rural districts by a shortage of home helps. I would like to take this opportunity of publicising this shortage and asking for more applicants for this service,

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following statistics relating to midwifery and home nursing in the district.

Midwifery.

Total number of confinements attended	-	96
Total midwifery and maternity visits	-	3299

Home Nursing.

Total number of cases during the year	-	382
Total number of visits paid to all cases	-	5395

It is of interest to note that of the 382 cases seen during the year, 115 were over the age of 65, and of the total of 5,395 visits, 2406 were over the age of 65. This is a good indication of the work which this age group is placing upon these services.

There are in the districts 6 midwives who also act as local district nurses. Besides the work shown above, they attend at the various Infant Welfare Centres and do ante-natal work in the areas for which they are responsible, a total of 114 attendances having been made. The following is a list of the District Nurse/Midwives working in Lothingland together with the areas for which they are responsible.

Miss M. Dolaghty	-	Barnby	Carlton Colville	Mutford
Mrs. H.M. Edwards	-	Belton	Burgh Castle	Bradwell
		Hopton	Fritton	
Mrs. Roach	-	Ashby	Herringfleet	Lound
		Corton	Somerleyton	Oulton
		Flixton	Blundeston	
Miss E. King	-	Hulver	Kessingland	Gisleham
		Henstead	Rushmere	
Mrs. R. Rainbird	-	Henham	Frostenden	Wrentham
		Benacre	Uggeshall	Covehithe
		Wangford	South Cove	
Miss A. Flowerdew	-	Reydon	Easton Bavents	Southwold.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report upon the work of the Department in 1957. New legislation included the Housing Act 1957, Rent Act 1957 and the Petroleum (Conveyance by Road) Regulations 1957. In addition to routine work and action regarding meat inspection, housing, holiday camps, caravan sites, food shops and water supplies, surveys were made of schools and petroleum storage installations.

Housing.

The following information has been supplied by the Architect and Surveyor, N. Billington, Esq:-

A. Provision of New Accommodation

Houses erected by private enterprise	88
Houses erected by the Local Authority	20

B. Housing Act 1949. Part II

Improvements: Number of dwellings in respect of which applications for grant were

(1) made in 1957 by private enterprise	41
by Local Authority	7
(2) approved by Council during 1957	49
by private enterprise	49
by Local Authority	7

Provision of dwellings by conversion: Number of dwellings in respect of which applications for grant were

(1) made in 1957	5
(2) approved by Council during 1957	5

Inspections were made of 195 houses and the following is the result of recommendations made and action taken in respect of this property:

Number of houses demolished and unfit houses closed	8
Number of undertakings given not to use houses for human habitation	2

Number of families displaced	12
Number of houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	126
Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices	
Public Health Act 1936	12
Housing Acts 1936-1957	1

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There was again an increase in the number of holiday caravans and 29 sites were licensed under Section 269 Public Health Act 1936 for 1015 moveable dwellings. Informal action was taken regarding the use of land by visitors with tents where no sanitary facilities were available. 132 visits were made to caravan and camping sites.

Licences were issued for 22 caravans for residential use and in these cases additional facilities were provided.

SCHOOLS.

18 schools were inspected and works of improvement in connection with sanitary accommodation and washing facilities were put in hand by the County Council.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Samples of water were submitted to Dr. L.M. Dowsett, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Norwich and the reports were as follows:

	<u>Mains Supply</u>	<u>Private Wells</u>
Highly satisfactory	11	12
Satisfactory	-	9
Suspicious	1	1
Unsatisfactory	-	13

50 samples of well water for examination for nitrate content were taken and Dr. E.C. Wood, Public Analyst, reported on the suitability of these waters for use for infant feeding.

Visits to 332 houses were made regarding water supplies. In some cases difficulty was experienced in persuading owners of cottage property to connect to the main water supplies due to high cost. Action may be recommended under Section 138 Public Health Act 1936 as amended by Section 30 Water Act 1945 but the limit for expenses which can be recovered by the local authority

for carrying out work in default is £20 and this is not sufficient in view of present day costs.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES and KNACKERS YARD.

Seven private slaughterhouses were licensed and used and the following details are given of carcases and offals inspected in these premises:

<u>Number of Animals</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Killed	1030	22	20	295	4759
Inspected	1030	22	20	295	4759

Diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number of whole carcases condemned	-	-	1	5	4
Number of carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	190	4	1	3	168
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Number of whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Number of carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	19	2	-	-	101

Cysticercosis

Number of carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Number of carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-

The total weight of meat and offal amounted to:

2 tons 17 cwts. 98 lbs.

Visits to slaughterhouses numbered 940 and included inspections made in the evenings and during public holidays and weekends.

The system of collection of diseased and unsound meat and offals carried out by the Suffolk Fat and Bone Company continued to be satisfactory and the material was processed on arrival at the factory at Oulton.

One knackers yard was licensed and the following animals were dealt with:

Cattle	104
Horses	20
Pigs	17
Calves	234
Sheep	25
<u>Total</u>	<u>400</u>

FOOD PREMISES.

Inspections	269
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Registered premises

Ice Cream manufacturers	1
Ice Cream retailers	57
Sausage and preserved food manufacturers	9

Milk Dealers Licensed

Pasteurised	17
Sterilised	18

DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE.

Sewerage schemes were completed in the parishes of Hopton-on-Sea, Kessingland and Wrentham and notice was given to owners of property capable of being connected to such sewers that in six months the cesspool emptying service would not be available. Improvements were recommended and carried out to a number of drainage schemes where difficulty was found in disposing of the effluent.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The cost of providing the refuse collection and cesspool emptying services amounted to £9558. 0s. 0d. compared with £9205, 19s, 3d. in the previous financial year. During the year there was an increase in wages and in the costs of materials used.

There has been no change in the number of men or vehicles engaged in this service since 1953. The chargehand and eight men work from the Depot at Oulton Broad.

Refuse Collection: The following vehicles were used:

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Engine</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Fuel used</u>
10 cub. yd. refuse collector	1949	Petrol	13362	1483 gallons.
18 cub. yd. "	"	"	1956	Diesel 10701 865 "

There was again an increase in the number of houses and also in the number and size of camps requiring the service. No change was made in the times of collection and this was carried out weekly in six parishes and fortnightly in the remainder of the district. Where necessary camps were given a twice weekly collection in the holiday season. All refuse was disposed of by tipping on land in Barnby and Corton and by arrangement on the tips of the Lowestoft Borough Council. Tipping of refuse on land adjoining the Reydon sewage works was discontinued.

Nightsoil Collection: A weekly service is given to property in Kessingland where pail closets are still used. As a result of suggestions to owners regarding conversions to water closets the number of pails to be emptied has been reduced from 270 to 186.

Cesspool Emptying: The following vehicles were used:

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Engine</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Fuel Used</u>
750 gall. cesspool emptier	1947	Petrol	12600	2087 gallons,
1000 " " "	1950	Diesel	17080	1380 gallons,
1000 " " "	1953	Diesel	16808	1328 gallons.

A peak was reached in 1956 for the quantity of sewage to be moved but as is shown the difficulty in disposing of the loads has caused an increase in mileage.

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Sewage removed from cesspools	6,503,000 gallons.	6,167,000 gallons.
Mileage	41,980 miles	46,488 miles
Expressed as miles per load	6.45	7.54

PETROLEUM ACT and REGULATIONS.

102 inspections were made of licensed premises and the attention of licence holders was drawn to the new Regulations and to the Home Office recommendations on conditions for storage of petroleum spirit.

RODENT CONTROL.

The rodent operative treated the following property where infestations were found. The work was carried out most efficiently and in all cases to the satisfaction of the occupiers.

<u>Dwelling-houses</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Other Premises</u>
580	58	44

I am, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obedient Servant,

Ralph Groat.

Public Health Inspector.

